

Activities for Blanks Level 4

- **Problem solving**

Create situations where the student has to solve a problem using language. For example a situation where there isn't a pencil sharpener available when they need to sharpen their pencil. Talk the student through the situation and ask what possible solutions there might be.

Problem solving from another person's point of view adds another level of difficulty to this process. Start with real life situations, and then move onto:

- Role Play
- Small world play
- Pictures (including 'What's Wrong' cards)

- **Justifying a decision**

For example: Why did you put mayo on that sandwich? You may need to model some answers initially, for example: You put mayo on a sandwich to keep it together, or to stop the tomato falling out, etc.

- **Justifying a prediction**

For example: "Why do you think 'x' is going to happen next?"

Accept any justification, however bizarre, in the first instance. Move onto the use of pictures when you are sure the student is able to justify predictions at the levels above.

- **Inferring information from text, pictures and discussion.**

Work from the child's observations in real life situations.

You may need to give him the information in the first instance, so for example, it looks as though the baby feels sad, how do we know that? And then help him work it through.

- **Idioms**

These are expressions such as "over the moon" and they are non-literal. When one of these is used in conversation, check to see if your student knows what it means. If they don't, explain it giving examples. Try to introduce the same idiom several times over the next few days, checking that your student understands what it is. For example say "does 'they are over the moon' mean that they have travelled over the moon or that they are very happy?"